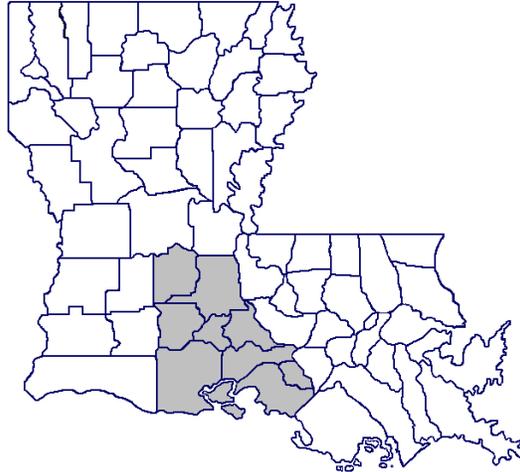


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 4
FIRST QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW**

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette
St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 4 during first quarter 2003 was 239,429, a decrease of 1.4% from the fourth quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.2% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in eight of the 20 NAICS sectors from the fourth quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 9.0% was in management of companies and enterprises.

Average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 40. Retail trade was the leading industry in RLMA 4 with 32,066 employees, or 13.4% of total employment. Lafayette was the leading parish with 118,323 employees, or 49.4% of total employment.

Total wages increased 0.4% from the same period in 2002, and decreased 8.5% from the fourth quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$572.12. St. Mary parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$634.28.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 4 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 4" beginning on page 43.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Acadia	\$ 440.88
Evangeline	428.20
Iberia	556.73
Lafayette	621.55
St. Landry	472.05
St. Martin	404.42
St. Mary	634.28
Vermilion	552.76

The number of reporting units in RLMA 4 for first quarter 2003 was 16,251.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

